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Foreign Crops and MARKETS



VOLUME 57

8861

NUMBER 1

WORLD PLUM AND PRUNE PRODUCTION (Page 2)

L A T E N E W S (Page 1)

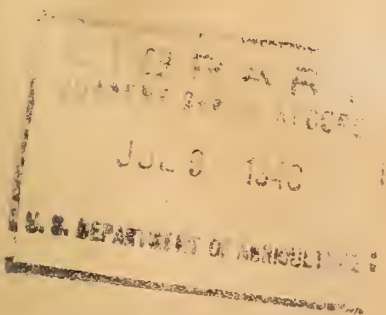
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FOR RELEASE

MONDAY

JULY 5, 1948

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Issued by the OFFICE OF FOREIGN AGRICULTURAL RELATIONS
UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE, WASHINGTON, D.C.

L A T E N E W S

The cotton textile industry in France is reported to be prepared to place on the market about 20 million meters (21,872,000 yards) of cotton materials at prices 5 percent below the existing maximum prices. This action was made possible by increased production and will be made effective under the terms of an agreement with the Government to help promote economic stabilization in the country.

- - - -

The Egyptian Government recently approved the reopening of the Alexandria cotton futures market with the date tentatively set for September 1. Transactions in extra long staple varieties will be based on Karnak. Those in shorter staples will be based on Ashmouni.

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WORLD PLUM AND PRUNE PRODUCTION 11 PERCENT BELOW PREWAR

An estimated world production of plums and prunes for 1947 is now indicated to be 2.5 million tons, 14 percent below the 1946 production of 2.9 million and 11 percent lower than the prewar (1935-39) average of 2.8 million. In North America, the plum crop in the United States estimated at 78,000 tons is 26 percent less than the record large crop of 106,000 tons for the previous year but 16 percent above the prewar average of 67,000 tons.

Prunes for all purposes in Idaho, Washington, and Oregon are estimated at 92,500 tons (fresh basis) as compared with 152,600 tons in 1946. California's prune production is estimated at 502,500 tons (fresh basis) as compared with 532,500 tons the previous year, a reduction of 6 percent. Canadian production of 19,350 tons is 5 percent less than the 1946 production but about 3 times as much as was produced prewar. In Mexico the production of 5,000 tons is about the same as last year but twice as much as was produced during the 5-year (1935-39) average.

European production estimated at 1,672,000 tons is 12 percent less than the 1946 production of 1,895,000 tons and 10 percent below the prewar average of 1,852,000.

The Czechoslovakia plum and prune crop is estimated at 169,000 tons, about 15 percent below the 1946 crop of 198,000 tons and 9 percent less than the prewar average of 185,000 tons. Fruit crops in Czechoslovakia suffered from hot dry weather which prevailed just at the most critical time for growth and development of fruit. The French crop at 124,000 tons is 9 percent more than the 114,000 produced last year and nearly 3 times as much as was produced prewar. Stone fruits escaped the drought in France. The crop in the Netherlands, estimated at 23,000 tons is about 6,000 more than the 1946 crop of 17,000 and 14,000 more than the 1935-39 average of 9,000. This was the best crop since 1942 when 28,000 tons were produced. Increases in Belgium, Bulgaria, France, Italy, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Yugoslavia were more than offset by decreases in Austria, Czechoslovakia, Germany, Hungary, Poland and Rumania.

In Asia the indicated production of 85,000 tons is 30 percent below the 1946 production of 121,000, and 33 percent below the prewar (1935-39) average of 126,000 tons. Turkey and Japan are the largest producers.

South American production of 41,000 represents the crops of two countries, Argentina and Chile. Both countries indicate that their production will be between 5 and 10 percent above last year's crop.'

In South Africa the crop of 13,000 tons is 1,000 more than the preceding year and about 1,500 more than the 5-year average.

Australia's crop of 18,000 tons is an increase of 29 percent over the previous crop, but is 14 percent below the prewar average of 21,000.

This is the the first published estimate of world plum and prune production by the Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Only estimates for countries where production statistics are available are shown.

(Table on following pages)

1/
PLUMS AND PRUNES: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39,
annual 1940-47

Continent and country	Average : : 1935-39 :		1940 :		1941 :		1942 :		1943 :		1944 :		1945 :		1946 :		1947 :	
	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons	Short tons	tons
North America																		
Canada	6,600:	6,325:	13,400:	9,425:	9,075:	13,375:	12,150:	20,275:	19,350									
Mexico 2/	2,751:	3,036:	3,022:	3,235:	3,527:	4,960:	5,162:	5,139:	5,000									
United States	799,380:	617,100:	659,600:	618,400:	703,300:	603,500:	783,900:	791,100:	673,300									
Plums	66,960:	74,000:	76,900:	76,200:	78,500:	96,500:	72,600:	106,000:	78,300									
Prunes 3/	732,420:	543,100:	582,700:	542,200:	624,800:	507,000:	711,300:	685,100:	595,000									
Total	808,731:	626,461:	676,022:	631,060:	715,902:	621,835:	801,212:	816,514:	697,650									
Europe																		
Austria	61,977:	15,983:	36,045:	29,431:	35,384:	40,000:	30,000:	51,438:	35,000									
Belgium	13,982:	10,680:	8,091:	13,714:	11,150:	11,263:	20,857:	19,676:	38,580									
Bulgaria	79,646:	39,469:	135,127:	178,622:	196,099:	186,289:	184,745:	115,000:	130,000									
Czechoslovakia	185,393:	51,362:	63,631:	67,038:	52,011:	64,196:	36,419:	198,466:	169,298									
France	45,612:	34,726:	26,220:	44,276:	36,082:	36,238:	66,673:	113,628:	123,824									
Germany	415,208:	528,663:	226,853:	246,474:	281,086:	317,627:	238,220:	407,356:	277,002									
Greece	5,895:	7,669:	6,555:	7,201:	6,924:	8,051:	8,300:	6,587:	7,659									
Hungary	36,581:	9,484:	21,555:	17,668:	21,287:	24,190:	18,188:	30,093:	21,715									
Italy	56,728:	73,854:	62,941:	69,114:	66,138:	77,161:	79,220:	62,811:	72,752									
Luxembourg	3,381:	6,504:	4,943:	8,354:	6,767:	6,767:	12,451:	21,167:	23,072									
Netherlands	8,755:	14,043:	10,673:	28,284:	8,140:	9,465:	17,527:	16,535:	22,707									
Norway	9,785:	10,972:	8,577:	7,858:	3,186:	8,734:	7,302:	12,840:	10,220									
Poland	96,161:	122,124:	52,153:	56,847:	64,806:	73,231:	54,923:	93,918:	63,864									
Rumania	87,743:	125,245:	284,648:	233,318:	281,106:	319,439:	352,736:	253,529:	122,467									
Spain	39,691:	45,830:	43,372:	47,881:	44,448:	48,387:	49,839:	39,373:	45,673									
Sweden	2,127:	2,393:	2,754:	204:	790:	8,956:	9,921:	9,921:	9,921									
Switzerland	11,089:	17,637:	15,432:	18,739:	19,400:	33,069:	9,921:	30,864:	20,944									
United Kingdom	95,166:	160,720:	59,808:	187,712:	144,144:	111,328:	85,792:	136,528:	162,400									
Yugoslavia	597,467:	416,749:	355,854:	391,048:	376,008:	437,219:	450,741:	275,575:	315,368									
Total	1,852,387:	1,693,707:	1,425,832:	1,653,783:	1,654,956:	1,821,610:	1,733,775:	1,895,305:	1,672,466									

1/
PLUMS AND PRUNES: Production in specified countries, average 1935-39,
annual 1940-47

Continent and country	Average :		1940 :		1941 :		1942 :		1943 :		1944 :		1945 :		1946 :		1947 :	
	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons	Short tons
Asia																		
Lebanon	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/	4/
Palestine	550:	1,269:	1,142:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:	1,437:
Syria	5/	1,298:5/	1,131:5/	646:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:	929:
Turkey	60,540:	55,277:	30,420:	50,745:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:	57,198:
Japan	63,956:	69,776:	73,083:	62,561:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:	63,305:
Total	126,344:	127,453:	105,291:	115,876:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:	124,313:
South America																		
Argentina	6/	14,435:	22,266:	32,064:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:	27,172:
Chile	6/	2,829:	6,172:	8,849:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:	8,188:
Total	6/	17,264:	28,438:	40,913:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:	35,360:
Africa																		
Union of South Africa		11,540:	9,000:	7,000:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:	9,250:
Oceania																		
Australia		21,312:	21,375:	20,866:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:	26,377:
New Zealand		2,036:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:	2,150:
Total		23,348:	23,525:	23,016:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:	28,527:
World total		2,839,614:	2,508,584:	2,256,259:	2,471,648:	2,568,308:	2,623,338:	2,728,208:	2,899,299:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:	2,530,336:

Office of Foreign Agricultural Relations. Prepared or estimated on the basis of official statistics of foreign governments, reports of United States foreign service officers, results of office research and other information. Estimates of countries having boundary changes have been adjusted to prewar boundaries.

1/ Production is from bloom of year shown and includes plums and prunes produced for fresh consumption, drying and processing. 2/ Does not include wild plums which are 85 percent of total production. 3/ Includes California dried prunes converted to a fresh basis at the ratio of 2½ pounds of fresh fruit to 1 pound of dried. 4/ Included with Syria. 5/ Includes Lebanon. 6/ One year.

COMMODITY DEVELOPMENTS

LIVESTOCK AND ANIMAL PRODUCTS
LIVESTOCK NUMBERS IN FINLAND,
EXCEPT FOR SHEEP, DECLINE

The Finnish February and March livestock census for 1948 shows a decline in all species over the preceding year, except for sheep numbers, which increased. Total cattle and hog numbers apparently decreased almost 8 percent and 9 percent, respectively, from a year earlier, while sheep numbers increased almost 2 percent over the previous year. Horse numbers, compared with 1947, showed a slight decline, but are larger than prewar.

Cow numbers show a reduction of almost 7 percent from last year and are now lower than they have ever been in this century. The percentage of the reduction in the number of young cattle and calves is even larger. Young pigs under 6 months showed a considerable decrease and slaughter hogs actually increased. However, sows are at or slightly above prewar level.

FINLAND: Livestock numbers on March 1, 1948,
 with comparisons

Classification	1939 ^{1/}	1946	1947	1948
	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands	Thousands
<u>Cattle</u>				
Cows	1,378	1,121	1,074	1,003
Calves under 1 year	(539	321	273	254
Young cattle 1-2 years	(214	205	183
Bulls and oxen	21	17	14	12
Total	1,938	1,673	1,566	1,452
<u>Hogs</u>				
Boars	5	2	3	3
Sows	55	47	56	57
Slaughter hogs	152	24	48	54
Pigs under 6 months	307	181	228	190
Total	519	254	335	304
<u>Sheep</u>				
Over 1 year	578	629	583	585
Under 1 year	422	470	399	414
Total	1,000	1,099	982	999
<u>Goats</u>	10	11	9	7
<u>Horses</u>				
Over 3 years	312	307	315	313
Total	386	381	404	403

Compiled from official sources.

^{1/} September-prewar boundaries.

TROPICAL PRODUCTSDOMINICAN SPRING CACAO
CROP EXCEEDS FORECAST

It now appears that the main, or spring, cacao crop in the Dominican Republic will total approximately 46.3 million pounds instead of 42 million as forecast early in the year. The winter crop, harvesting of which was completed in February, yielded 13.5 million pounds, thus, the total production in the Dominican Republic from October 1, 1947, to September 30, 1948, will approximate 60 million pounds. A total of 69.5 million pounds of cacao beans were produced in 1946-47.

JAPAN'S TEA PRODUCTION
INCREASING

Production of finished tea in Japan for 1948-49 (May 1948 to April 1949) is estimated by the Japanese Ministry of Agriculture and Forestry at 71.3 million pounds, of which 71 million pounds will be green tea, and about 0.3 million pounds black. During 1947-48 about 52.6 million pounds of tea were produced, most of which was green tea. The quality of tea from the first crop of the 1948 season, plucked from May 1 to about May 20, is expected to be fairly good, owing to ample quantities of fertilizer being made available during 1947.

Although 8 million pounds of green tea have been programmed for export from May 1948 to April 1949, it is believed that 10 to 12 million pounds could be made available. There was a carry-over of 6.5 million pounds of tea from the previous season.

ZANZIBAR CLOVE
CROP LOW

The 1947-48 clove crop on Zanzibar and Pemba Islands is very small. Only 9,473,000 pounds of cloves were received at the Zanzibar Central Market and at the Clove Growers Association's depot from July 1, 1947, through March 30, 1948. Arrivals during the corresponding period last season totaled 35,185,000 pounds.

Although some cloves may be harvested the year around, the two principal periods are July-August and November-February. The crop year extends from July 1 to June 30, but usually practically all the cloves have been picked by the end of March. Production fluctuates greatly from year to year. The lowest clove crop recorded for Zanzibar and Pemba was 6,565,000 pounds in 1945-46 and the largest was 47,457,000 pounds in 1937-38. Although commonly referred to as "Zanzibar" cloves, Pemba produces 85-90 percent of the cloves originating in the Protectorate.

India is now the most important market for Zanzibar cloves. Prior to World War II, the Netherlands East Indies, which imported large quantities for use in cigarette blends, was the principal outlet. The United States obtains the bulk of its clove supplies from Zanzibar.

FRUITS, VEGETABLES AND NUTSPINEAPPLE PRODUCTION IN
FORMOSA DECREASING

Pineapple acreage in Formosa is estimated at 3,000 acres for 1948. Production reached its peak in 1939 when 4,592,000 crates, (of 70 lb.) were harvested from 25,666 acres, since that time production and acreage have gradually declined. Cultivation of pineapple will continue to drop unless prices paid to growers are increased. Yield from government plantations can be absorbed by the domestic and mainland markets.

Pineapple Production in Formosa, Average 1935-39,
Annual 1940-46

Year	:	Area	:	Production
	:	<u>Acres</u>	:	<u>Thousand crates</u>
Average:	:		:	
1935-39	:	21,112	:	3,572
1940	:	24,498	:	4,058
1941	:	25,127	:	4,098
1942	:	21,395	:	3,660
1943	:	18,108	:	2,950
1944	:	13,437	:	1,358
1945	:	8,473	:	552
1946	:	7,813	:	544

SOURCE: Consular Reports

FRUIT PROSPECTS IN
GREAT BRITAIN

Indications for a good crop of summer varieties of dessert and cooking apples are forecast by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries. Prospects for the winter apple crop is not so good and the total apple crop is likely to be much below the 23 million bushels produced in 1947. The cider-apple crop is fair. Production of cherries and plums probably will be smaller than last year but prospects are for a pear crop about the same as last season.

BRITISH COLUMBIA TO HAVE
AVERAGE FRUIT CROP

Fruit crops in British Columbia for 1948 promises to be fair. Peach production will probably exceed the 1947 crop due to a large number of young trees just coming into bearing. Pears bloomed heavily but a large percentage of fruit has dropped so that thinning will not be necessary. Apricots have set a good crop, and the outlook is average or better. The crop of cherries and plums will be lighter than indicated by the bloom. Fine weather began in the middle of May and has been general since.

Production of small fruits is indicated to be good and will probably exceed the 1947 production.

Production of small fruits in Canada
1947 and indicated 1948

Fruits	1947	1948
	<u>Crates</u>	<u>Crates</u>
Strawberries	688,301	710,522
Raspberries	1,023,345	1,038,226
Gooseberries	3,342	7,000
Currants, black	13,870	16,600
Currants, red	1,632	5,670
Loganberries	77,581	94,530
Blackberries	58,760	63,570

SOURCE Consular Reports

CHERRY CROP LOWER
IN ITALY

Cherry production in Italy for 1948 is estimated to be about one-third as large as the 1947 production of 115,656 short tons. The 1948 crop is poor throughout Italy, chiefly because of heavy rains. Cherries are water-soaked, with a large proportion broken and spotted. In Southern Italy, the 1948 pack of brined cherries is placed at 2,755 short tons, about one-half as large as the 5,500 short tons packed in 1947. Because of the short crop and strong demand for local consumption, the price of cherries has risen steadily from 3 cents per pound at the opening of the season to 6 cents the first week in June. If the price remains at 6 cents prices CF at New York will be around 20 cents per pound for first quality; 18 cents second quality and 16 cents for third quality.

FATS AND OILS

URUGUAYAN GOVERNMENT
AIDS FLAXSEED PRODUCERS

The Uruguyan Government has issued a new decree opening a credit of 1 million pesos (U.S. equivalent \$527,000 at the controlled rate of exchange) to purchase flaxseed for 1948-49 planting, which begins in July. Crushing mills must set aside sufficient seed of desirable varieties to meet farmers' planting requirements. The 1 million pesos will be used to finance small producers.

The Government has fixed the price that crushers must pay producers for flaxseed from the 1947-48 crop. A price of 330 pesos per metric ton (\$4.41 per bushel) is paid for seed delivered to mills by farmers cultivating more than 250 hectares (618 acres) and 350 pesos (\$4.68) to those planting less than 250 hectares. The difference between the two prices is to be subsidized by the Bank of the Republic from the fund "Diferencias de Cambio" (profits derived from exchange transactions).

The official export price for linseed oil f.o.b. Montevideo, is now 1.05 pesos per kilogram (31.2 cents per pound, converted at the special rate for linseed oil). Since this is higher than the world market price, farmers were somewhat alarmed because the mills were slow in buying their

seed. Fear of a decrease in the 1948-49 acreage prompted the Government to establish the price for flaxseed from the 1947-48 crop. It is now expected that the 1948-49 area will equal the 464,155 acres planted in 1947-48.

ARGENTINE FLAXSEED PRICE TO GROWERS NOT TO EXCEED 1947-48'

Argentine flaxseed producers have been informed by the National Economic Council that the price to be paid for the 1948-49 crop will not be greater than the current 30 pesos per 100 kilograms (\$2.27 per bushel) basis, bagged on track or alongside boat, Buenos Aires. Indications are that the Council prefers expansion in edible oilseed acreage.

Flaxseed acreage has decreased rapidly since the early 1940's. The area planted to this crop in 1947-48 was slightly more than half the 1935-39 average. In contrast to flaxseed, sunflower acreage was more than 5 times the prewar average.

GRAINS, GRAIN PRODUCTS AND FEEDS

UNION OF SOUTH AFRICA REPORTS RECORD CORN CROP

The corn crop in the Union of South Africa is estimated at 106 million bushels. This record crop compares with 99 million bushels in 1947 and the 1935-39 average of 80 million bushels. The exportable surplus for the crop year beginning May 1, 1948 is estimated to be about 4 million bushels.

Corn is the mainstay of the native diet in South Africa and, with the present large outturn, the food position is expected to be even better than during the past year when it improved materially following that good harvest.

Storage facilities are reported inadequate to handle the large crop, and considerable quantities are being stored in the open, under canvas. A shortage of bags was also expected to complicate handling the large outturn.

The Ministry of Agriculture recently announced a slight increase in the price to be paid to producers during the current season. The new price of \$1.23 per bushel is about 4 cents more than last season. The increase will be paid at the end of the season, on the basis of delivery receipts. Domestic consumer prices are, however, to remain unchanged.

COTTON AND OTHER FIBERCOTTON-PRICE QUOTATIONS
ON FOREIGN MARKETS

The following table shows certain cotton-price quotations on foreign markets, converted at current rates of exchange:

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the
U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
<u>Alexandria</u>		:Kantar	:	:	:
Ashmouni, Good.....	6-24	: 99.05 lbs.	:Tallari	: 80.50	: 67.17
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: 72.50	: 60.49
Karnak, Good.....	"	: "	: "	: 100.50	: 83.85
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: (not quoted)	
<u>Bombay</u>		:Candy	:	:	:
Jarila, Fine.....	"	: 784 lbs.	:Rupee	: 650.00	: 25.01
Broach, Fine.....	"	: "	: "	: 825.00	: 31.75
Kampala, East African.....	"	: "	: "	: (not available)	
<u>Karachi</u>		:Maund	:	:	:
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....	6-23	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	: 68.00	: 24.93
289F Sind, S.G., Fine.....	"	: "	:	: 89.00	: 32.63
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....	"	: "	:	: 104.00	: 38.13
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		:Metric ton	:	:	:
Type B.....	6-24	: 2204.6 lbs.	:Peso	:3150.00	: 1/
<u>Lima</u>		:Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Tanguis, Type 5.....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	:Sol	: 252.00	: 38.23
Pima, Type 1.....	"	: "	: "	: 285.00	: 43.24
<u>Recife</u>		:Arroba	:	:	:
Mata, Type 4.....	6-23	: 33.07 lbs.	:Cruzeiro	: 170.00	: 27.97
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	: "	: "	: 180.00	: 29.61
<u>Sao Paulo</u>		:	:	:	:
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	6-24	: "	: "	: 187.00	: 30.77
<u>Torreon</u>		:Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Middling, 15/16".....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	:Peso	: 155.00	: 31.44
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>		:	:	:	:
Orleans Av., Mid. 15/16".....	"	:Pound	:Cent	: XXXXXX	: 36.40
	:	:	:	:	:

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Official exchange rate temporarily not available.

(NOTE: This series of quotations will be placed on a more current basis in future issues of Foreign Crops and Markets, beginning with the table on the following page).

COTTON: Spot prices in certain foreign markets, and the
U.S. gulf-port average

Market location, kind, and quality	Date 1948	Unit of weight	Unit of currency	Price in: foreign currency	Equivalent U.S. cents per pound
<u>Alexandria</u>		: Kantar	:	:	:
Ashmouni, Good.....	7-1	: 99.05 lbs.	: Tallari	: 80.50	: 67.17
Ashmouni, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	: 71.50	: 59.66
Karnak, Good.....	"	: "	: "	: 100.25	: 83.64
Karnak, F.G.F.....	"	: "	: "	(not quoted)	
<u>Bombay</u>		: Candy	:	:	:
Jarila, Fine.....	"	: 784 lbs.	: Rupee	:	:
Broach, Fine.....	"	: "	: "	:	:
Kampala, East African.....	"	: "	: "	:	:
<u>Karachi</u>		: Maund	:	:	:
4F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....	"	: 82.28 lbs.	: "	:	:
289F Sind, S.G., Fine.....	"	: "	: "	:	:
289F Punjab, S.G., Fine.....	"	: "	: "	:	:
<u>Buenos Aires</u>		: Metric ton	:	:	:
Type B.....	"	: 2204.6 lbs.	: Peso	: 3150.00	: 1/
<u>Lima</u>		: Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Tanguis, Type 5.....	"	: 101.4 lbs.	: Sol	: 253.00	: 38.38
Pima, Type 1.....	"	: "	: "	: 286.00	: 43.39
<u>Recife</u>		: Arroba	:	:	:
Mata, Type 4.....	"	: 33.07 lbs.	: Cruzeiro	: 170.00	: 27.97
Sertao, Type 4.....	"	: "	: "	: 180.00	: 29.61
<u>Sao Paulo</u>		:	:	:	:
Sao Paulo, Type 5.....	6-30	: "	: "	: 188.00	: 30.93
<u>Torreon</u>		: Sp. quintal	:	:	:
Middling, 15/16".....	7-1	: 101.4 lbs.	: Peso	: 158.00	: 32.05
<u>Houston-Galveston-New</u>		:	:	:	:
Orleans Av., Mid. 15/16".....	"	: Pound	: Cent	: XXXXXX	: 35.42

Quotations of foreign markets reported by cable. U.S. quotations from designated spot markets.

1/ Official exchange rate temporarily not available.

TOTAL PHILIPPINE ABACA PRODUCTION INCREASES BUT DAVAO OUTPUT DECREASES

January-April production of abaca in the Philippines increased from about 67 million pounds in 1947 to approximately 71 million in 1948. Production in southern Mindanao (which includes the Davao area) decreased from about 34 million pounds or 51 percent of the total in the first four months of 1947 to about 23 million pounds or 33 percent of the total in the corresponding period of 1948.

Production in southern Mindanao may range from 5.5 million to 7 million pounds monthly for the balance of 1948. No noticeable recovery is expected in Mindanao for some time to come because of the limited number of new plantings available for stripping and the poor condition of the commercial plantations which were held by the Japanese before World War II. In fact, present conditions indicate that 1948 production may not be more than two-thirds that of 1947. (See Foreign Crops and Markets, May 3, 1948).

In regions outside of Mindanao the increase in output is attributed partly to overstripping and partly to working of more remote regions. A higher price this year tends generally to encourage production, sometimes at the expense of future continued output.

The opening monthly wholesale price of Davao abaca, grade J1 loose, in Manila, was the equivalent of 21.6 cents per pound on May 2, 1948, and 21.8 cents on June 7, compared with prices ranging from 13 to 19 cents for the same grade during the calendar year 1947.

Exports to the end of April 1948 kept well up with production, and stocks throughout the Philippines were relatively low at possibly little more than 8 million pounds.

PHILIPPINE PRODUCTION OF FIBERS OTHER THAN ABACA

Maguey (or cantala) production in the Philippines decreased to 4.8 million pounds in the first 4 months of 1948 compared with 7 million pounds during the corresponding period in 1947 and a total of 14.2 million pounds in the calendar year 1938. Exports in March and April decreased to 863,000 and 884,000 pounds, respectively, from an average of 1,263,900 pounds per month in 1947 and monthly totals of 1,488,900 and 1,711,500 pounds in January and February 1948. The principal market is in the United States. Very little maguey is consumed in the Philippines.

Canton fiber production for January-April 1948 amounted to only about 19 bales or 5,300 pounds, compared with less than 70,000 pounds in 1947. Sporadic production is expected for the balance of 1948.

Sisal production is very small -- only 18,600 pounds in January-April 1948 and none in the corresponding period of 1947. An average of 268,300 pounds was produced annually from 1931 to 1940.

Ramie production amounted to only 18,000 pounds in the first 4 months of 1948, compared with 47,600 for the corresponding period of

1947. A total of 179,200 pounds was produced in the calendar year 1947 compared with about 410,000 pounds in 1938. Interest is waning in Philippine ramie. Relatively large stocks are still on hand and plantings are less than formerly. Production is almost entirely for export.

Coir or coconut fiber is produced on a very small scale, probably less than a million pounds annually. It is consumed locally. Much of the crop is used in seat padding for small "jeepneys", but some is manufactured into cocoa mats and other products.

Possibly 6 million pounds of kapok is produced annually in the Philippines. It is gathered mostly from scattered trees planted along roadsides and around farm houses, although there are two or three very small plantings in southern Mindanao. The principal domestic use is for cushions in the local rattan furniture industry. Exports in recent years have amounted to 150,000 pounds or less annually, compared with a prewar average of 2 million pounds. The United States has furnished the principal market for Philippine exports of kapok.